

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 DLOS-09 /137 W
-----050523 032255Z /73

R 021310Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2168
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4189

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PLOS, EMIN, TU
SUBJECT: DORCHESTER GAS PLANS TO DRILL FOR OIL IN AEGEAN

REF: A) ANKARA 3977, B) ATHENS 4376

1. WE HAVE CONFIRMED OUR EARLIER UNDERSTANDING REPORTED IN
REF. A THAT DORCHESTER GAS (DG) AND PARTNERS, ALL OF WHOM ARE
EXPERIENCED IN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL ASPECTS OF OFFSHORE OIL
EXPLORATION, HAVE TAKEN CARE TO ASSURE THEMSELVES THAT DG
ACTIVITIES ARE LIMITED TO UNDISPUTED TURKISH WATERS. YILMAZ
OZ, YALE-EDUCATED ANKARA LAWYER WHO HAS REPRESENTED DG IN TURKEY
MORE THAN 20 YEARS, ON JUNE 1 PROVIDED EMBOFF FOLLOWING DETAILS
INCLUDING MAP.

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2. HE SAID SURVEY OF FOUR OFFSHORE LICENSES IN AREA CONCERNED
HAD JUST BEEN COMPLETED PREVIOUS DAY. ACREAGE SURVEYED IS
BOUNDED BY OUTER LIMIT OF TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS IN AN
AREA BEGINNING JUST SOUTH OF DIKILI (ON TURKISH WEST COAST
SLIGHTLY NORTH OF 39TH PARALLEL), AND ENDING ROUGHLY AT ABOUT
KUCUKBAHCE ON NORTHERN TIP OF PENINSULA OPPOSITE ISLAND OF

KHIOS. OZ SAID SURVEY SHIP HAD CONDUCTED ITS RUNS OFTEN IN WATCHFUL PRESENCE OF GREEK PATROL BOATS WHICH HAD NOT HESITATED TO INDICATE WHEN SHIP WAS APPROACHING GREEK WATERS, AS IT INEVITABLY DID ON TURNAROUNDS.

3. A SITE FOR EXPLORATORY DRILLING HAS BEEN SELECTED WHICH IS WELL WITHIN TURKISH WATERS AT MOUTH OF IZMIR BAY. ALTHOUGH RELUCTANT TO GIVE EXACT MAP COORDINATES WITHOUT CLEARANCE FROM HIS PRINCIPALS, OZ COPIED AND GAVE EMBOFF A MAP OF AREA ON WHICH HE MARKED LOCATION OF DRILLSITE. (POUCHED EUR/SE FOR MARCOTT TODAY). SITE IS DESIGNATED "FOCA-1" AND IS LOCATED ROUGHLY MIDWAY ON STRAIGHT LINE DRAWN BETWEEN FOCA (PRONOUNCED FO-CHA) ON MAINLAND AND KARABURUN ON PENINSULA. IT IS ROUGHLY 40-50 KMS. BY SEA FROM ALIAGA, WHERE LARGE TURKISH REFINERY IS LOCATED.

4. OZ ALSO INTRODUCED AMERICAN WHO IS IN ANKARA COORDINATING DRILLING OPERATIONS, PETER B. STILLEY, AN EMPLOYEE OF UNION TEXAS PETROLEUM NORMALLY BASED IN SINGAPORE. STILLEY INDICATED, WITHOUT PROMPTING FROM EMBOFF, FULL AWARENESS OF POTENTIAL SENSITIVITIES OF OPERATIONS IN AREA. HE SAID HE WAS SURE PRECISE MAP COORDINATES COULD BE OBTAINED FROM DG SHOULD WASHINGTON REQUIRE THEM. HE ALSO SAID HE WAS ANXIOUS TO GET ON WITH OPERATIONS, FIND DRY HOLE, AND GET OUT--A COMMENT WHICH WE INTERPRET TO REFLECT A CERTAIN LACK OF OPTIMISM ABOUT PROSPECTS IN THE AREA.
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5. WITHOUT DISCLOSING PLANNED DRILLING SITE'S PRECISE LOCATION (FURNISHED TO US ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS), ATHENS AND DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ANSWER INQUIRIES FROM GOG BY DRAWING ON PARAS.

1-4

OF THIS TELEGRAM AND PARAS. 2-3 OF REF A, NOTING THAT DORCHESTER OFFICIALS HAVE INFORMED USG (A) THAT ALL FOUR OF DORCHESTER'S LICENSED EXPLORATION AREAS LIE WITHIN TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS, (B) THAT THE PLANNED DRILL SITE LIES WELL WITHIN TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS, AND (C) THAT DORCHESTER IS AWARE OF THE DISPUTED STATUS OF THE SEABED UNDERLYING INTERNATIONAL WATERS IN THE AEGEAN AND HAS NO FUTURE PLANS FOR OPERATIONS THERE. DEPT. AND ATHENS MIGHT ALSO WISH TO ADVISE GOG THAT DRILLING CONFINED TO TERRITORIAL WATERS WOULD APPEAR NOT TO BE A PROVOCATIVE ACT AND HENCE PERMISSIBLE WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE BERN AGREEMENT.

6. IN ADVANCE OF ANY POSSIBLE CONTROVERSY OVER PLANS FOR OIL EXPLORATION WITHIN TURKISH TERRITORIAL WATERS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED ON (A) ON-GOING OR PLANNED PETROLEUM EXPLORATION WITHIN GREEK TERRITORIAL WATERS AND (B) WHETHER OR NOT OIL IS PRESENTLY

BEING PUMPED FROM NEAR THSSOS OR ELSEWHERE IN GREEK TERRITORIAL
WATERS.
SPIERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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